

HENRY JAMES ENLIGHTENS.

LADY POLITICAL LEAGUERS HEAR
"THE LESSON OF BALZAC."

Not Many Men in the Audience, Which Learned That Balzac is "A Rank Tropical Forest of Detail"—Swat for the Speaker's Fellow Novelists.

Of course it was worth \$2, but the announcement was not stated the price, and consequently many of the ladies who went to the Berkeley Lyceum, 23 West Forty-fourth street, yesterday morning to hear Henry James lecture on "The Lessons of Balzac," were obliged to draw on the subterranean when they learned the tariff.

It was a comfort, however, to hear the young man who delicately sold the tickets say, when patrons repeated "Two dollars" with a rising inflection: "I would give \$10 any time to hear Mr. James." It was patent that he was there with the intellect.

Mr. James' lecture was given under the auspices of the League for Political Education and was the last, the cap sheet, of its season. The league had a lovely little theater, which has a gallery and red lights at the exits. Its construction seems to conform to the fire laws, but its seats do not conform to the thighbones of such gross men as have allowed themselves to run more to legs than to minute study of the microscopic details of human thought.

For there were such, and the keen Mr. James perceived it, for he half retracted his salutation, "ladies and gentlemen," after he had been introduced by a league officer who pronounced it "Balzac." Mr. James makes the first "a" short and snappy, if you care to know it. When he spoke to speak there was an end to the fluttering. All the admirers had told one another how they had followed Mr. James from "Daisy Miller" onward, and could understand every line of everything.

Mr. James wore a black frock coat, a white waistcoat, a wing collar, a white string tie, and, of course, other garments. He looks now like a bank president rather than a novelist. He is an excellent speaker. Every word is clear, and every clause. If you cannot comprehend every sentence—and there are many clauses in each—you are not of the league. He is a man of the world, and he speaks with the authority of a man who has seen the world. He is a man of the world, and he speaks with the authority of a man who has seen the world.

Mr. James talked of Jane Austen at first. To him she is the greatest of novelists. He is in the same lucky boat with the Brontës and "her key to fortune is the grace of her faculty."

"Literature is an objective and projected result. Life is a floundering cause. When the conversation really takes place we have been excluded from the fun. These are only clauses. To print the whole absorbing sentences of which they are parts would be to cause you to let your coffee cool. Now Balzac!"

"For many years the public has taken his greatness for granted. We are so ready to beg for anything about him. He is great, so let us not talk about him. The man who is really the father of us all is not mentioned any more. It is as if he were not a member of the family. The family is only likely to recover by shutting itself up for half an hour with its founder. It was not given to him to flower in a single sentence. He is a man of the world, and he speaks with the authority of a man who has seen the world.

Mr. James defined the novel as "the vision, superficial, gratuitous table. The lyric element is not present in Balzac any more than in Scott, Dumas, Thackeray, Dickens or that right particular genius of our own day, George Meredith. There is a nice round of applause for Mr. Meredith. Almost every one in the crowded little theater seemed to love him. All the other novelists were, he said, lovers of the image of life."

"Balzac died at 50, worn out by work and passion—passion, I mean for his mighty pen. Some have found fault with his detail. He is a rank, tropical forest of detail and specification, but with the strong breath of genius blowing through it. He reproduced the real on the scale of the real. He may at times have been obscure by striking too many matches. He has faults, but they are not of education. He is always saturated with his idea. He clearly held the pretended portrayal as less than nothing. To his characters he gave fair value, unlike Thackeray, who wanted to deprecate poor Barry Sharp, to follow her up and catch her in her shame."

Mr. James awaited novelists who "suspend the action of the plot, there is no more of it, but they are not of education. He is always saturated with his idea. He clearly held the pretended portrayal as less than nothing. To his characters he gave fair value, unlike Thackeray, who wanted to deprecate poor Barry Sharp, to follow her up and catch her in her shame."

Mr. James said, is the last word for the image of the perfect novel where the closest of weaving comes to the surface. "Balzac is too great to be moved. He remains fixed by virtue of his weight. As far as we move we move around him. Every road comes back to him. He sits there majestically in orientation."

Then the ladies went away. The younger of them were singing over one sentence that fell from Mr. James' lips:

"There is no such thing in the world as an adventure pure and simple."

They could not do it, they did not understand it, they must prefer to believe that it wasn't so.

THE WICKED FLEA.

His Activity Responsible for Smallpox Scare on Ship Arriving at Frisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 31.—The flea is a small animal, but like the Japanese his ability to make trouble for his hosts seems unlimited. The flea which dwelt on the Pacific Mail liner City of Peru, arriving this morning from Panama, were particularly troublesome. As a result of the flea, three of the passengers, Mrs. Emma Schneider and the two daughters of Louis Hirsch of Castle Bros. sought the ship's surgeon's assistance.

The doctor examined small red spots with which their bodies were covered and declared that they had smallpox. The leading surgeon, Dr. J. H. Hirsch, and the ship's doctor and a tug was sent for Chief Surgeon Cummings at Angel Island. The medical men held a consultation and to Dr. Cummings belong the honor of finding out the secret of the flea.

He saved the quarantine records from being destroyed by the passengers were afflicted with a flea bite. The flea was delayed the vessel in docking the entire forenoon.

JAR FOR COURT CLERKS.

Court Decision May Cost Twenty-five or Thirty of Them Their Places.

Supreme Court Justice Marean in Brooklyn, yesterday granted a peremptory writ directing Magistrate Higginbotham to appoint a chief clerk, two assistant clerks and a stenographer for the Lee avenue court, in accordance with the provisions of the statute on the subject. Hitherto in the office of the Second Division such appointments had been made by a majority vote of the Board of Magistrates. Magistrate Higginbotham had opposed the granting of the writ, being anxious that the question involved be judicially tested.

The writ stands that it will affect the positions of twenty-five or thirty of them in the Second Magisterial division, and also the legality of the payment of the salaries for the last two years. It will also give to the Magistrates individually the right of selecting clerks and stenographers for a term of four years each.

Gen. Roe Entertains Army Officers.

WEST POINT, May 31.—Major-General and Mrs. Charles F. Roe entertained at dinner to-night Major-General Adna R. Chaffee, Brigadier-General Mills and staff, the Academy board of visitors and many officers and their ladies of West Point and their country house, Pine Terrace, in Highland Falls.

"A Square Deal"

—President Roosevelt.

Mount Vernon

Square bottles Only

Neither by accident nor design can the Distillery Bottling of Mount Vernon Rye be other than pure. It is bottled at the distillery (in square bottles only) where rectifying is prohibited by the U. S. Government.

THE COOK & BERNHEIMER CO.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

A new automobile horn has made its appearance in the garages in West Thirty-eighth street, and persons who hear it for the first time momentarily regard sudden death under the machine as no remote alternative. It has exactly the tone of a human voice with the terrifying expression that might be the cry of a lost soul. One blast suddenly brings every pedestrian to a stop. Drivers draw up to see what tragedy could have happened and timid women shriek. This horn should be a very effective warning for persons who have heard it would run miles rather than risk such an experience a second time.

"Talking of some long speeches at public dinners," said a Tammany sachem, "reminds me of Richard Croker. Ex-Tax Commissioner Shea was complaining at the Democratic Club one night that William Sulzer had wrecked the program of the meeting by making a speech of an hour when he had asked for only five minutes."

Crocker asked Shea: "Why did you let him?"

To Shea's reply that nobody could stop Sulzer, Crocker said:

"We had an effective method in the old days. The front row of seats was occupied by men who were asked to stand up. Within reach of them was a pail filled with water. When they thought the speaker had said enough or hadn't made good, in their opinion, they dipped the sponges in the pail and at the word fired them at the speaker like so many shells. I never knew it to fail in bringing a speaker to full stop. I know that the sponges were there and the sight of the pail of water was usually enough to keep the speakers within bounds. It was a good plan."

In a Broadway restaurant which sells an immense quantity of beer the chief taster was asked one cold day if he drew much beer in winter.

"More than in summer," he said. "Weather is of no consequence to a beer drinker, except that the colder it is the more beer he wants. I draw more heavy beer in winter than in summer, and about as much light beer as I can get."

"Those who are not 'natural' beer drinkers," he explained, "drink more spirits in winter than in summer."

Father owns a 40 horse-power motor, but little Willie had only seen it whiz away with his family in a cloud of dust or snort in front of the house. He had never been allowed on board and looked with increased envy at the departure of the family. "After a while the desire to ride got too strong."

"Papa," he said one day, "I wish you'd get a little brother or sister for me."

"Because then I won't be the only precious one," he said, "and I can go out in the motor car sometimes with you and mother."

"Hold on a moment," said the bachelor, who was taking a friend home to spend the night. "I need some cigars."

"The cigar shops are all shut up."

"The cigars are all shut up with his key and in a moment there was a click as the bolt of the letter box looked back.

"Expect to find some one has 'mailed' them," said the bachelor.

"Mailed 'em myself. I ran out of cigars and did not want to climb three flights of stairs when I was coming out, so I bought a dozen and mailed them."

"I often do when I know that I am coming home after the places close."

Most New Yorkers have learned through sad experience to recognize and discard the circulars with which their letter boxes are stuffed and, whether they come by mail or are slipped into the box carelessly addressed to the right name, a percentage find their way into the waste basket unopened.

Recognizing this fact, an insurance company has hit upon a new idea. Instead of sending out a man to copy off the addresses on the letter boxes in the apartment houses, they send out a distributor paid with a package of circulars and a lead pencil. He goes from house to house addressing an envelope to each box and the envelope is scribbled by some friend and dropped into the slot. In nine cases out of ten the enclosure is looked at through pure curiosity.

SMITH GIRLS MUST BE COUNTED

Five Men to Tackle Job of Taking the College Census.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 31.—The refusal of Smith College girls to answer the questions of the State census enumerators required to-day in the adoption by the State Department of heroic measures. There are 1,068 young women students in the college and their enumeration was supposed to begin May 1.

A teacher, who was a male, appointed for Ward Two, in which the college is located, worked a week and reported practically no progress. The college authorities appointed special enumerators from among the young women students in the belief that they would be able to secure the necessary data.

They failed and this afternoon Chief Pidgin ordered the department's Chief Inspector Eugene V. Tovey of Boston here, accompanied by two Boston assistants. To-night they called in David E. Hoxie, inspector of Department K, and two regular male enumerators to see what was to be done.

On Thursday morning either to take the college census or enforce the law. The hour is early for most of the college girls, but the census takers will be requested to get up and to the mark. He added that the census of the college would be completed by Saturday night.

POPE'S BLESSING TO CHILDREN.

Letter to Be Read To-day—Prayers for Eucharistic Congress Asked.

Through the Father of the Blessed Sacrament, in West Twenty-sixth street, Pope Pius X. has sent a special blessing to all the "little children" in America. To-day, Ascension Thursday, this letter, addressed to Father Durand, will be read.

"To our dear son, Henry Durand, priest, to all the little children who during the days of the Eucharistic congress at Rome, shall pray at least five minutes before the Blessed Sacrament, we grant a special indulgence of one hundred days."

THE VATICAN, May 31, 1905.

The International Eucharistic Congress opens to-day in Rome. America is represented at the congress by the Archbishop of Philadelphia, Bishop Garvey of Altoona, and a number of priests who went on pilgrimage some weeks ago.

Loving Cup to Frederick P. Olcott.

Frederick P. Olcott retired yesterday as president of the Central Trust Company, and the officers and clerks of the company presented to him a silver loving cup and a set of engraved resolutions. The presentation was made by Vice-President George Sherman, who told the retiring president how much he would be missed.

Mr. Olcott returned thanks.

HOLDS 24 THEATER MANAGERS

THEY CONSPIRED AGAINST METCALFE, MAGISTRATE SAYS.

Conrad, Klaw, Erlanger, Hammerstein, Dan Frohman and the Rest to Take the Case Before the Supreme Court for Review—Crime Charged Is Misdemeanor.

Magistrate Pool decided yesterday to hold twenty-four members of the Theatrical Managers' Association for trial for criminal conspiracy, committed when the organization passed a resolution harrasing James S. Metcalfe, critic for *Life*, from the forty-seven theaters controlled by members of the organization.

Magistrate Pool handed down his decision in the West Fifty-fourth street court yesterday. Mr. Metcalfe and Assistant District Attorney Krotel were in court. Counsel for the defendants were notified to produce their clients in court as soon as possible.

In the complaint made by Mr. Metcalfe, who was kept out of a number of theaters after the resolution was passed, twenty-six theatrical men were named as defendants, but the names of two were stricken out by Magistrate Pool. One was Samuel S. Shubert, who was killed recently in a railroad wreck, and the other is Edward G. Gilmore, who, Magistrate Pool decides, did not vote for the resolution or confirm the action of his associates, but disavowed it.

The twenty-four held are:

MARC KLAU, JOSEPH L. SPRINGER, ABRAHAM L. ERLANGER, LEO THELIER, OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN, W. C. WATSON, DANIEL FROHMAN, PERCY WILLIAMS, CHARLES M. FROHMAN, ALF. HATMAN, JOSEPH K. BROOKS, GEORGE KRAUS, JAMES H. CONRAD, E. S. STAIR, MARTIN DICKSON, W. F. KROGH, FRANK MCKEE, AL. L. LICHTENSTEIN, J. W. ROSENQUIST, ANTONIO PANTOR, A. L. BRADEN, HENRY B. HARRIS.

W. M. K. Olcott, who is counsel for some of the theatrical men, said last night that at a meeting of the lawyers to-day it would undoubtedly be agreed to sue out writs of habeas corpus and certiorari and have the case reviewed in the Supreme Court.

To get a writ it will be necessary for one of the defendants to be committed. The one charged is named in the complaint in the Special Sessions court, unless the defendants have the cases transferred to General Sessions for a jury trial. In his decision, Magistrate Pool says:

"I hold that any member of the association, whether present or not at the meeting, who, either directly or indirectly, threatened to do so, or who prevented the complainant from entering their respective theaters on his presenting himself for admission with good character and proper license of admission, is liable to the same charge as if present at the meeting and voting."

It is claimed that the theaters of the defendants are private property and not public places, and, therefore, they had a legal right to exclude the complainant from their places of amusement.

The theaters are a quasi-public place, and in that respect differ from an individual's castle or his private place. It is a place where the public is invited to go and consider theaters as such, by punishing persons who commit disorderly conduct in such places, and I think that has been the rule of my predecessors.

In cases where the offense charged was committed in a theater, the theaters owned by the defendants, managed by them, are devoted to the use of the public and rightfully are at least quasi-public places.

Section 383 of the Penal Code states, "theaters, or other public places" under the head of "public places."

It was contended by the theatrical men that a theater ticket was a contract, revocable at any time, and they cited an opinion of the Appellate Division in the case of a ticket speculator against the Knickerbocker Theater. Magistrate Pool says that in that particular case notice had been conspicuously displayed saying that tickets purchased or sold by speculators would be refused at the box office, and that whether or not a ticket is a license revocable at the pleasure of the vendor was not before the court.

That opinion was cited and revoking on a lower court. He concludes:

"I hold a person cannot be denied admission to a theater solely on the ground that he had written the criticisms reflecting on one or more members of the Theater Managers' Association."

"From the testimony in this case, and the law as we understand it, I conclude, and it appears to me by the depositions, statements and testimony in this case, that the crime charged is not a misdemeanor, but a felony, and the complaint has been committed and there is sufficient cause to believe the within named defendants are guilty thereof."

CLOTHING FOR ACTRESSES.

New Charity Which the Actors' Church Alliance Finds Helpful.

At the sixth annual convention of the Actors' Church Alliance at the Savoy Theater yesterday Miss A. S. Prout, secretary of the Boston chapter, the first established outside of New York, gave a report of the year's work. She said:

"Mary Shaw, who has about the most level head of any actress coming in contact with us, asked us, 'Well, what are you doing now?' We told her. She replied that while our work was ethical, tangible activity, and results. She said: 'One thing you can do is furnish clothes to the actresses. We were surprised at this. One of our members tested the suggestion, and the actress approached was delighted at the idea of getting some dresses through us. We got the gowns from a dressmaker and turned them over to actresses in need. We found it to be the crying need of young actresses starting out in the profession.'"

"Seven hundred letters were sent out and \$3,000 worth of discarded gowns were sent to the actresses. One of our members tested the suggestion, and the actress approached was delighted at the idea of getting some dresses through us. We got the gowns from a dressmaker and turned them over to actresses in need. We found it to be the crying need of young actresses starting out in the profession."

"One actress kept her engagement, another got an engagement in a San Francisco stock company, and a third, in evidence, supporting her little sister and mother, was able to maintain her standing by means of the gowns acquired through our charity."

At the public meeting in the evening Rabbi Silverman and the Rev. William M. Brundage spoke.

ALARM DIDN'T SCARE SCHOOL.

1,200 Children Marched Coolly Out of No. 100-Bad Boy's Frank.

Some mischievous boy pulled the fire alarm bell in Public School 109, at Audubon avenue, 28 and 29th streets, yesterday afternoon, just as the 1,200 children in the building were about to be dismissed. The principal, Miss Mary Shires, and her teachers acted promptly and prevented a panic. The children got out of the building in three minutes without mishap.

The fire alarm is located on the first landing of the main hall. The principal is not sure whether it was set by a boy or a girl, but she is sure it was not from the street. The gong for dismissal had been rung, and as Miss Shires was coming down the front stairs she heard the alarm, and within a few minutes Engine Company 28 came tearing up the building.

She and her assistant, Miss Anna du Moulin, took their places, and the fire signal was given. The children came out of their rooms promptly, and although the firemen ran up through the building the little ones did not lose their heads.

Somebody told the firemen that the fire was on the top floor. They looked over where, but could not find any blaze. One little boy in the sixth grade in the grammar class stood at the entrance of the building and the children were all out, with their teachers' hats and coats. He said he did not want to have her lose them.

Alterations at the Aerial Gardens.

Workmen are busy day and night remodeling the Aerial Theater and Gardens for the opening next Monday night. The lobby, which answers as an approach, both to the New Amsterdam Theater and its midair resort, is being redecorated, and while the new floor is being laid a temporary box office will be placed in front of the theater.

The Aerial's box capacity has been increased and the balcony seats raised. The color scheme this season will be pink, silver and gold.

"SILVER PLATE THAT WEARS"

Wedding Presents

Silver, always an acceptable gift for the bride, will prove to be of lasting value if it bears the trade mark

"1847 ROGERS BROS."

Spoons, Forks, Knives, etc., so stamped are a credit to the giver and a delight to the recipient.

In buying Candelabra, Trays, Tumblers, Coffee Sets, Bon Bon Dishes, etc., ask for the goods of

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